

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-19 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:RWSULLIVAN:BDS

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL,JR.

EA/P - MR. ROSEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, TW

SUBJECT: GELB ARTICLE ON US FORCES TAIWAN

1. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE PROVIDED DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN ON GELB ARTICLE WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL BE PUBLISHED MAY 17. WE WILL CABLE TEXT OF ARTICLE AND SPOKESMAN'S ACTUAL RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE GELB ARTICLE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF US AIR FORCE UNITS FROM TAIWAN:

A: GELB'S DESCRIPTION OF OUR NOVEMBER 1972 ARRANGEMENT WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS GENERALLY ACCURATE. THE ROC LOANED US AIRCRAFT FOR TRANSFER TO VIETNAM. WE IN TURN STATIONED US AIR FORCE UNITS ON TAIWAN TO FILL THE TEMPORARY AIR DEFENSE GAP CREATED BY THE DEPLOYMENT OF THOSE AIRCRAFT TO VIETNAM. THE ARRANGEMENT WAS THAT WHEN THE LOANED AIRCRAFT COULD BE RETURNED OR

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REPLACED, THE US F-4 AIRCRAFT ON TAIWAN WOULD NO LONGER

BE NEEDED AND WOULD BE WITHDRAWN- THAT WAS OUR UNDER-
STANDING THEN AND THAT IS OUR INTENTION NOW. I HAVE NO
COMMENT ON WHEN THESE MOVEMENTS MAY TAKE PLACE.

Q: ARE THESE AIR FORCE UNITS THE ONLY US COMBAT FORCES
ON TAIWAN?

A: WHEN WE REPLACE THE AIRCRAFT WE BORROWED AND WITH-
DRAW THE F-4'S, THERE WILL BE NO US COMBAT UNITS ON
TAIWAN.

Q: IS THIS MOVE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH
THE PRC?

A: WE ARE TALKING ABOUT AN ARRANGEMENT REACHED WITH
THE ROC IN 1972 TO MEET A SPECIAL AND TEMPORARY NEED.
OUR GENERAL POSITION ON US DEPLOYMENTS ON TAIWAN
CONTINUES TO BE THAT OUR FORCE LEVELS ARE KEPT UNDER
CONTINUING REVIEW AND CHANGES ARE MADE ON THE BASIS
OF OUR ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY REQUIREMENTS IN THE AREA.

Q: WHAT IS THE CURRENT LEVEL OF US MILITARY FORCES ON
TAIWAN?

A: ABOUT 5,000. RUSH

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